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PROGRAM The Today Show STATION WRC TV
NBC Network

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SUBJECT Colonel Muammar Qaddafi Interviewed

JANE PAULEY: Chris Wallace spent this weekend in the Middle East, where he got an exclusive interview with Libya's Muammar Qaddafi. Chris is in Rome this morning with the story.

CHRIS WALLACE: Jane, we are just back from Libya, where on Saturday night we spent an hour talking with Colonel Muammar Qaddafi. In the interview the Colonel said that there was no justification for a U.S. ban on Libyan oil imports. He also criticized Saudi Arabia, saying that it should cut oil production by two to three million barrels a day, and that failure to do so might destroy OPEC. And we asked him what he will do if U.S. warships return to the Gulf of Sidra, where last summer two U.S. planes shot down two Libyan jets.

COLONEL MUAMMAR QADDAFI: We will defend our country till the last drop of our blood and the last man and woman. We know we are a small country and America is a superpower. That is our duty. We don't want to invade America. We are not going to make war on the shores of America. But America is coming here. What we will do on this? We will do our duty.

WALLACE: And that is to fight?

COLONEL QADDAFI: Of course. If anyone comes to your country, in your home, what do you do in that case? When we attack your home, what you will do?

WALLACE: Qaddafi said throughout the interview that he wants good relations with the U.S. But he accused President Reagan of using Libya to distract the American people from U.S. economic problems.